

khalaphat and verily he knows that Imam is as indispensable to the khalaphat as the peg (nail) of the grinding stone upon which its turning depends is indispensable.

The height of rank and position is such that the fountain of knowledge flows from me and no bird can fly to that height, etc.

.....(3) ”

The Book of Imam Ali .

All moslems agree and confess that Nahaj - ul - Balaghah ,

is the second book in Islam. To my opinion, it is necessary for every student or scholar of Islam of philosophy to study this book which is containing his lectures , advice, exhortation maxims letters, dealing with social military, civil, judicial, criminal, penal , religious, economical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual subjects.

Undoubtedly, this book is the best means to lead everybody to the true successor of the holy apostle of Islam.

1 — See sermon No 7, this book is translated by the grand Moslem Mission, Bombay I (India).

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Election in Islam .

The Shia - moslems believe that after the prophet Mohammad the election of Islamic khalifah was not free. Before death, he personally had selected Imam Ali son of Abu - Taleb as his formal successor .

The prophet not once declared his cousin Ali as his successor, the tradition of Islam tells us the fact, that he appointed him as legal successor for many times .

To opinion of Shia, Mohammad's choice of Ali as his successor precludes any other form of succession that of natural inheritance. And it has been through the family and lineage of Imam Ali, those who had been introduced by the prophet himself .

Still, the politicians who had

no objection but urged by their personal interests, took advantage of the prophet's illness. They prepared the affairs so that, as soon as, the prophet died, they began to elect a candidate of their own. He was Abu Bakr's son of Abu Ghahaphah (1). But a great minority of moslems, who were the prophet's sincere companions such as Abuzer, Meckdad, Salman, etc openly declared that they shall not follow anybody but Imam Ali, the legal successor of Mohammad (2).

Imam Ali's report .

Now it would be better for us to listen cordially to a passage of the best speech(3)of Imam Ali which is a description of the first three khliphs :

"... By God, that person

(Abu Bakr) put on the shirt of

1 — See Sirah ebn Hosham : Vil . II P. 343, Tabary : Vol. III P. 198, ebn Kothair : Vol. V P. 242, etc

2 — Tabary History : Vol. III P. 21, A,alam - Nnessa Vol : III P. 1206 - 7 Mosnad Hanabal : Vol. I P. 55, etc ...

3 — Nahaj - Balaghah by Imam Ali.

of leadership and ideal of religion for all followers of Mohammad the prophet. Acceptance of the Khaliphah then, determines the whole course of religion, political and social life .

Indeed the successor of the holy prophet must be a correct example for his followers, in the most minute detail of worship, of devotion, of courtesy, humanity, courage, bravery, social intercourse activities, of business and of political life .

The modern world tends to minimize the importance of religious disputes .

But this is an open door to religious indifference and materialism. Therefore, one who is going to accept Islam, its doctrines and teachings, and to have a true faith; in the first instant, should know who was the true successor of the prophet, to follow him.

Guidance, or wandering ?

It has been said : "One who accepts Islam, is wandering."

Don't fear, say he is .

Why? Because he does not

Which one of Islamic sects is right? Shia - School or

Which one leads him to a straight, the substantive Islam ?

Surely, there is the same problem in Christian sects and also in the other religions .

So any body may be lucky to accept Islam, but he may go astray ! For he cannot distinguish his way to the substantial and most important subject of Islam , namely the khalafat .

To moslems, therefore this is a matter of life or death; and to others a matter of guidance or wandering, so that we enter upon this subject not for the sake of expressing prejudice , but to seek the truth even after fourteen centuries of tradition and religious practice (1).

1 — See Macktabe Tashayyo, a by the same author.

